

translation of Paragraphs [0014], [0024], and [0035] of Japanese Laid-Open patent application 2000-66973

14] By employing an e-mail address association means (Fig. 3; in the example of Fig. 3, e-mail address conversion table 30) that associates and stores a telephone number of each e-mail transmission/reception terminal 1 and an e-mail address of its user (or user), e-mail apparatus 4, upon transmission, reads a telephone number in a FROM field and converts it to an identification symbol of the sender (e-mail address). Upon reception, e-mail apparatus 4 reads an identification symbol in a TO field, obtains the telephone number of the receiver, and transmits an e-mail to the specified receiver. In addition, e-mail apparatus 4 can be equipped with functions as a so-called server apparatus.

24] When receiving from Internet 5 e-mail data as shown in Fig. 5 (b), e-mail apparatus 4 saves an e-mail header and body to database 44, then checks a value in a FROM field of a sender. Determining that the value is not a telephone number, since the value is not a number, e-mail apparatus 4 leaves the From field as is (no conversion). Then, e-mail apparatus 4 searches e-mail address column 32 of e-mail address conversion table 30, based on a sender's e-mail address "poch..." (a value in a To field). E-mail apparatus 4 retrieves a first telephone number "0505501234," which has the same e-mail address as the receiver's e-mail address. E-mail apparatus 4 then replaces [the telephone number] with the e-mail address using the To field value and transmits the e-mail header to base station 2-1. Based on the telephone number in the FROM field, base station 2-1 calls wireless telephone 1-1 of a receiver, and then transmits e-mail header after the call is connected.

35] When the telephone number in above Step 2 is not identical to the value in telephone number column 31, [e-mail apparatus 4] may be set to return a message indicating the telephone number is not identical. Further, the order of Steps 1 and 2 and Steps 3 and 4 may be changed.

Translation of Paragraph [0013] of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication 2000-41131

[0013] Fig. 2 is flowchart 200 that shows an operation example for transmitting a variety of IP facsimiles according to the present invention. Specifically, a transmitting apparatus that transmits a facsimile message confirms a destination address of a receiving apparatus (block 210). According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the destination address is described in a form of a conventional e-mail address associated with the receiving apparatus (e.g., shamim@xyz.com) or a conventional 10-digit POTS telephone number. In the present invention, the destination address is converted into an IP address associated with the transmitting apparatus (block 220). Details on the conversion will be described below with reference to Fig. 3. When the IP address is confirmed as the destination address is converted, the IP address is used to establish a direct IP facsimile connection between the transmitting and receiving apparatuses so as to send the facsimile message (block 230). The present invention is preferred since IP facsimile communication requires neither an intermediate message conversion nor an exclusive facsimile server located near the receiving destination. The benefits above are further described below.